

INTHEFIELD

Spring 2008

THE FIELD MUSEUM'S MEMBER PUBLICATION



Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns & Mermaids

YOUR INNER FISH

LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE!

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COVER, MAIN IMAGE:

Arguably, the dragon is
the most famous of mythic
creatures and plays an important
role in the cultures of Asia,
Europe, and the Americas.

COVER, INSET: A mythic

creature that gained popularity
within recent years, Chupacabra,
means "goat sucker"
in Spanish.

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The Field
Museum

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Chicago, IL 60605-2496
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DIANE ALEXANDER WHITE



DAVE CHRISTOPHER



IRMA ARCE



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Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns & Mermaids (March 19–Sept. 1) traces the cultural and natural history roots of some of the world's most enduring mythological beasts of land, sea, and air. *Left: An ancient Chinese shadow puppet.*

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Paleontologist Scott Lidgard, PhD (*left*) is a Field Museum scientist studying marine ecosystems. His ground-breaking work on the tiny marine invertebrates called bryozoans is helping to answer some big questions.

9

What does the human hand have in common with the wing of a fly? Can we trace the evolutionary origin of ailments as varied as cancer and hiccups? *Your Inner Fish*, a new book by Field Museum Provost Neil Shubin (*left*), unearths some often startling finds.

10

Leave No Child Inside! is a national movement with the goal of reconnecting children with nature. Learn about the movement and The Field Museum's role within it. *Left: Altgeld Gardens students exploring Baubien Woods in Calumet.*



Museum Campus Neighbors

Shedd Aquarium Dive into family fun during Family First Saturdays, 10am to noon, the first Saturday of each month. Make crafts, take part in hands-on activities and get an inside look at Shedd; for information, visit www.shedd-aquarium.org and click on Education and Families. Our Trainer for a Day program lets you shadow a marine mammal trainer and experience training and feeding sessions with the belugas or dolphins; visit our website and click on Education and Adults or call 312.939.2438.

Adler Planetarium Plummet deep within a super-massive black hole in *Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity*. Narrated by actor Liam Neeson, this space simulation shows visually breathtaking images that allow visitors to explore of one of the universe's most amazing phenomena. In the space adventure show *The Zula Patrol: Under the Weather*, young space explorers can encounter the strange and wild weather of planets—including ours. To plan a visit, go to www.adlerplanetarium.org or call 312.922.STAR.

Why Ants and Fishes?

We have new blood coming into the research arm of The Field Museum

as strategic replacements for scientists who left over the past few years. Joining us are: Ken Angielczyk, PhD, assistant curator of fossil mammals, Corrie Moreau, PhD, assistant curator of insects, and Leo Smith, PhD, assistant curator of fishes.



JAMES F. PARNAM

Ken Angielczyk, PhD



SADOMI PIERCE

Corrie Moreau, PhD



JONAH WEINSTEIN/AMNH/USFZ/USFZ

Leo Smith, PhD

Dr. Angielczyk, who received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley in 2003, is a paleontologist studying dicynodont therapsids, formerly referred to as “mammal-like reptiles.” He is also interested in ancient ecology and extinction. Dr. Moreau graduated with a doctorate from Harvard University in 2007 and is an entomologist who studies the evolution and biodiversity of ants. She looks at both DNA and morphology to try to resolve interrelationships of this diverse group. Dr. Smith, who received his PhD from Columbia University in 2005, is an ichthyologist who researches scorpion fishes and fish venom. Like Dr. Moreau, he uses both molecular and morphological data to study evolution.

I am often asked: Why hire scientists who work on things like dicynodonts, ants, and fishes rather than subjects with a higher public profile like dinosaurs and Egyptian mummies?

As a research institution, we are committed to breaking new scientific ground and making a lasting impact. We have only about 36 primary research positions at The Field Museum, and in filling them we look for scientists who can leverage their research positions into successful scientific programs. So we hire curators based on the broad significance of questions they ask and their potential to be productive scientists, rather than on their specific subject matter. One of The Field Museum’s major research missions is evolution and biodiversity research. It is important to note that increasing knowledge about organisms like dicynodonts, ants, and fishes does more than fill in the puzzle of evolution and the history of biodiversity. In actuality, some of the most critical scientific concepts, from continental drift to modern evolutionary methods and philosophy, were developed by paleomammalogists, entomologists, and ichthyologists.

Who can guess what advances in scientific knowledge these new curators will produce? We are betting their contributions will be rich, and that they will be outstanding additions to the Museum’s world renowned research faculty.

Lance Grande

Lance Grande
Senior Vice President and
Head, Collections and Research



Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns & Mermaids

New Exhibition Opens March 19

By Maureen King, Guest Editor

Powerful, dangerous, and magical beings have been a part of the human experience for thousands of years. Giving shape to humankind's greatest hopes, fears and most passionate dreams, mythic creatures continue to thrill, terrify, entertain, and inspire.

Above, left to right: from the Ming Dynasty (1386–1644), an incense burner in the form of a Chinese unicorn; a deity in both Hinduism and Buddhism, the Garuda is a half eagle, half man; and a 17-foot-long dragon with a wingspan of over 19 feet.

From the fire-breathing dragon to the soaring phoenix, humans everywhere—sometimes inspired by living animals or even fossils—have brought mythic creatures to life in stories, songs, and works of art. A new, eye-popping exhibition, *Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns & Mermaids* (March 19 through Sept. 1) uses paintings, life-size models, and cultural objects from around the world to examine the legend and the science behind some of the most fascinating creatures ever conceived by the mind of man. *Mythic Creatures* also features fossils of prehistoric animals as well as preserved specimens to investigate and illustrate how—through imagination, speculation, and even fear—they could have inspired the development of some legendary creatures.

Woven throughout the exhibition is that most famous of mythic creatures: the dragon. Artifacts from many countries and periods illustrate the important roles dragons play in the cultures of Asia, Europe, and the Americas. In Asia, dragons can be as small as silkworms or fill the sky when they rise from the waters every spring and send rain to help crops grow. In Europe, the dragon is an evil creature that captures princesses and challenges heroic knights. In the Americas, the Aztecs worshipped the god Quetzalcoatl, or “feathered serpent.” Interactive touch-screens allow the visitor to create a dragon and then watch it come to life in a virtual environment, while a video demonstrates the process of creating dragons for movies.

Creatures of Water, Land, and Air

Fantastic beings that inhabit the depths, such as the kraken, sea monsters, and mermaids are well represented in the exhibition. When European explorers set out on voyages of discovery in the 15th and 16th centuries, rumors of sea monsters aroused their curiosity and fear. Sailors' tales ranged from accurate observations, to honest mistakes, to tall tales. Mermaids are possibly the most popular and intriguing creatures across all cultures. In Europe, Africa, and the Americas, they are a personification of the sea itself—powerful, seductive, and dangerous.

Mythic beings that walk the Earth, such as the unicorn, are featured in the folklore of many cultures. In Europe, the unicorn's horn was believed to counteract poisons. In Asia, the unicorn had a scaly coat, one or multiple flesh covered horns, and a wolf-like head. Exhibition visitors can see a narwhal tusk—a long, thin tusk, thought to have inspired the tales of the European unicorn. Most mythic creatures have ancient roots that go back hundreds or even thousands of years, but the *Chupacabra* is an exception. This new mythical creature, whose name means "goat sucker" in Spanish, started gaining recognition in the late 1980s. Stories of the creature's glowing red eyes and vicious fangs, as well as its penchant for drinking the blood of farm animals are told today throughout Latin America and the southwestern United States.

Mythic beings that take flight include the Sphinx, a terrible monster with the body of a winged lion and a woman's head, and the Tengu, a goblin-like being, that lived in the forests of Japan and would mock and punish people whom he deemed too prideful.



This banner, made in Haiti, portrays the Haitians' version of a mermaid.

The Asian phoenix, a mystical bird that appears at a time of peace or to announce the birth of a virtuous emperor, is represented by a clay roof charm in the image of the phoenix; charms such as this one guard the roof tiles of palaces and temples. In this section of the exhibition, visitors will also discover the fabled winged horse Pegasus from Greek mythology, the Garuda—a birdlike divinity found in Hindu and Buddhist stories, and the snakelike Naga, illustrated by Balinese shadow puppets. **ITF**

Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns & Mermaids is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York in collaboration with The Field Museum, Chicago; Canadian Museum of Civilization, Gatineau-Ottawa; Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney; and Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Atlanta.

Lead sponsor: MetLife Foundation



SOME NOT-TO-BE-MISSED EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

- A 17-foot-long dragon with a wingspan of over 19 feet.
- A 120-foot-long Chinese parade dragon.
- A 10-foot-long unicorn.
- A Pegasus carousel sculpture.
- A "Feejee mermaid" with the head and torso of a monkey and the tail of a fish.
- Images of the "Mami Wata" (mommy water), a powerful African water spirit.
- An 11-foot-long roc with a wingspan of over 19 feet and huge talons.
- A kraken with 12-foot-long tentacles.
- Two life-sized models of real creatures: an over-six-feet-tall extinct primate, the *Gigantopithecus*, and the largest bird ever to have lived, the over-nine-foot tall, extinct *Aepyornis*.
- A skeleton of the four-legged, beaked dinosaur *Protoceratops*, believed to have inspired tales of the mythical Griffin, part eagle and part lion.

Above, left to right: a roc is a creature believed to be so enormous that it could carry off elephants into the air; at over ten feet tall, the Aepyornis, now extinct, laid the largest eggs in the world; and the Gigantopithecus is a very distant relative of humans that lived in southeast Asia for almost a million years.

Seeking Big Answers from Tiny Animals A Conversation with Scott Lidgard

By Greg Borzo, Media Manager, Scientific Affairs

For 23 years, Scott Lidgard, PhD, associate curator of fossil invertebrates, has been at The Field Museum studying marine ecosystems. He focuses on the bryozoan, an understudied and underappreciated animal that has helped answer some of biology's biggest questions.



DIANE ALEXANDER WHITE

Dr. Scott Lidgard in the Museum's exhibition, *Evolving Planet*.

ITF: *What are bryozoans, and how did you come to specialize in them?*

Dr. Lidgard: Bryozoans are small invertebrates. Most build and live in stony skeletons, on the bottom of the world's oceans, as well as in freshwater streams and lakes. Scientists have described about 5,000 living species, but we think there are three-to-five times that number waiting to be identified. And another three-to-five times *that* number have probably lived at one time or another over the past 500 million years.

As part of the filter system that lives on the seafloor, bryozoans help maintain the health of our oceans. In some shallow ocean waters, bryozoans take over the work of better known and more appreciated reef-building corals. But just like corals, bryozoans create structures that foster biodiversity by sheltering small fishes, worms, arthropods, and other forms of aquatic life. Also, they filter waste products and single-celled organisms, and convert carbon dioxide into their calcium carbonate skeletons. Both processes help keep the ocean and atmosphere richer in oxygen.

No, I did not have a toy bryozoan when I was a kid that got me started on these animals. Nothing like that. I got interested in bryozoans because my research starts with wide-ranging questions about ecology, evolution, and the environment.

ITF: *What are the kinds of questions your research is trying to answer?*

Dr. Lidgard: How do we actually measure the pattern of evolution on diversity over geologic time? How do certain groups of animals interact and displace one another over millions of years, and from the equator to the poles? What makes one group more successful than another, as different predators evolve through time? How did changing environmental conditions affect the diversity of life?

Bryozoans can help give us answers because they leave a lasting, rich fossil record of their evolutionary history. While most fossils are of adult animals, bryozoan fossils include many stages of growth and development, because they are colonies made by "budding" of connected individuals. In addition, the skeletal shapes of some bryozoans have not changed much over millions of years while others have changed dramatically. And since bryozoans still exist in huge numbers and great diversity, they allow for comparisons over broad spans of location, conditions, and time—right up to today.

In Evolving Planet, a moving mural shows aquatic life from the Cambrian Period, about 500 million years ago.



JOHN WEINSTEIN/COURTESY OF THE MUSEUM OF NATURE

ITF: What are you studying right now?

Dr. Lidgard: I'm spending most of my time studying the global biodiversity of bryozoans and the role of predation in evolutionary trends. In a recent project, I found that a surprising 399 species in eight phyla prey on bryozoan colonies, even though the tiny organisms do not offer much nutritional value. Among other things, this illustrates how bryozoans fit into the food chain, and the critical role of their colonies as refuges for other invertebrates and young fishes.

ITF: Obviously, you find bryozoans fascinating, but why should the average person care about these tiny animals?

Dr. Lidgard: Three-fourths of humans live within 100 miles of the sea and depend on it for livelihood and sustenance. Nevertheless, we are destroying our marine ecosystems through pollution, dredging, and overfishing. Ecological studies suggest that humans are reducing certain marine ecosystems to something reminiscent of 550 million years ago, prior to the explosion of animal diversity that has enriched life on Earth. Even the asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs did not create such devastation! The bottom line is that we need to understand how our marine ecosystems function in order to better appreciate and preserve them. **ITF**

This cutaway drawing shows part of a bryozoan colony with two individuals—the first with its feeding organ extended, and the second with feeding organ retracted within the external skeleton.

CLARA RICHARDSON

'Bryozoans can help give us answers because they leave a lasting, rich fossil record of their evolutionary history.'



'The sea floor as it might have looked 220 million years ago.'

ROBERT TESTA/GEORGE J. COOK

Two Special Film Festivals at The Field

By Krystal Villanosa, Writer



MARY MILTON

Screened at last year's Margaret Mead Film Festival, Sisters-in-Law celebrates dynamic women in non-traditional roles in Kumba, Cameroon.

The experience of watching a film at The Field Museum is often awe-inspiring, sometimes funny, and always enriching. In 2008, The Field Museum will host two film festivals: the Banff Mountain Film Festival and the Margaret Mead Film Festival. Both are geared to adult audiences.

The Banff Film Festival, a one-evening program of short films, brings mountain stories to life through spectacular images and sound. You'll experience the adventure of climbing ice and rock, kayaking, and snowboarding. These films are sure to get your adrenaline going! The festival is a celebration of mountain culture and wildlife that boosts awareness of environmental issues.

For those with a passion for diverse cultures, social justice, and political commentary, the Margaret Mead Film Festival showcases the many complexities and conflicts that have arisen in recent years due to globalization. In past years, this film festival has taken on such controversial topics as Mexican-American migration, bride kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan, worker rights in China, and drug trafficking in the United States. Unique to the festival is the inclusion of question and answer sessions, panel discussions, and roundtable conversations that are held after film screenings and often lead to lively debates.

Whether you are a nature enthusiast, an armchair adventurer, or a political science buff, the Banff Mountain Film Festival and the Margaret Mead Film Festival offer very special film-going experiences. **ITF**



© THE BEGINNING SILENCE



© INTO THE WILD

Banff Mountain Film Festival

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 6-9pm

\$5, members \$3

Reserve your seats now as space is limited!

Call 312.665.7400.



JOHN ECKENRODE



JOHN ECKENRODE

Margaret Mead Film Festival

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 10am-4pm

Free!

Reserve your seats beginning August 15.

Call 312.665.7400.

MARCH-MAY

The Field
Museum

program calendar

SPRING 2008



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MARK MOFFETT



DAVID DOUBILET



Dozin' with the Dinos!

IMAGINE ROAMING THE FIELD MUSEUM AT NIGHT!

Explore the rituals of ancient Egypt. Prowl an African savannah with giraffes, hippos, and man-eating lions. Rub elbows with royalty in the Palace in Bamum, Africa. Overnights are a unique opportunity for children 6–12 to spend the night at The Field Museum. Bring your sleeping bag and explore one of the most exciting spots in town!

REMAINING DATES FOR 2008 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

MAY 16 & 30, JUNE 27, OCTOBER 24, NOVEMBER 28

\$55, \$47 members • Pre-registration required.

Visit our website at www.fieldmuseum.org or call **312.665.7400** to purchase tickets.

National Geographic Live!

Enjoy entertaining and visually spectacular presentations by dynamic National Geographic explorers, scientists, photographers, and filmmakers. From the wonders of the rain forest canopy to the mysteries of the ocean's depths, *National Geographic Live!* speakers inspire and enlighten audiences worldwide. We invite you to join the adventure!

MARCH 25, 7:30pm ARMY ANTS, ORCHIDS, AND DANCING FROGS
with Ecologist/Photojournalist Mark Moffett

APRIL 15, 7:30pm NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC REPORTS
with National Geographic Executive Editor Dennis Dimick

MAY 6, 7:30pm SECRET UNDERWATER EDENS
with Photographer David Doubilet

SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

UNRESERVED: \$24, \$22 members, \$15 students/educators
RESERVED: \$30, \$28 members

For more information on tickets for *National Geographic Live!*, please call **312.665.7400**

or visit www.nglive.org.

Proud Sponsor of the National Geographic Live! Spring Series and its accompanying education programs: WaMu

PROGRAM TICKETS & INFO > 312.665.7400 GENERAL MUSEUM INFO > 312.922.9410 VISIT > www.fieldmuseum.org

Please note: Refunds will be issued by Field Museum staff, minus a \$10 processing fee, for group and family overnights only. Cancellations must be made 24 hours in advance of the overnight in order to receive a refund. No refunds or exchanges are permitted for any other programs. Fees for programs that are cancelled by The Field Museum will be refunded in full.

march

CELEBRATING WOMEN* Performance & Lecture

Enjoy performances organized by The Swedish American Museum Center, The Indo-American Center, and The Brazilian Cultural Center of Chicago as they reenact festivals from around the world that celebrate women. A panel discussion on women's leadership roles to follow.

MARCH 1, 12pm (performance), **2pm** (panel discussion)

TWO OF US: MUSIC TO YOUR EARS Family Workshop

Join us for a 4-week excursion through the Museum!

You and your little one will sing songs, play instruments, and create musical instruments to take home! For families with children ages 3–5.

MONDAYS, MARCH 3–24, 10am • \$32, \$23 members

Price is per 4-week session and includes one chaperone per child. Pre-registration required.

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS Adult Workshop

Art Speaks: Community Building & Cultural Memory

Join The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, DuSable Museum, and Field Museum anthropologists for a discussion of art as a vehicle for community expression. Food sampling included.

MARCH 6, 6pm at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art

\$15, \$10 members • Pre-register at 312.665.7474.

FAMILY FIELD DAY!* Family Program

Meet your favorite WTTW Kids character while you hear a story, take part in free art activities, meet a real scientist, or sign up for a family workshop (listed below)!

Third Saturday of every month.

MARCH 15, 10am–2pm

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: LET'S MAKE MUSIC!

Family Workshop

You and your family will play with drums, ring elephant bells, and much more! For families with children ages 2–4.

MARCH 15, 10–11am • \$5, \$3 members

Pre-registration required.

FOSSIL HUNT AT MAZON CREEK Family Field Trip

Come with us to the world-famous Mazon Creek site, and discover what Illinois was like more than 300 million years ago! For families with children ages 8–17.

MARCH 22, 8am–3pm • \$40, \$28 members

Pre-registration required.

DRAGON DANCE* Performance

Join us for a lively performance by the Chicago Chinese Cultural Center as they demonstrate the beauty of the traditional Chinese dragon dance.

MARCH 22, 12pm

april

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS Adult Workshop

Kinship & Community

The Field Museum joins the Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago and the Indo-American Heritage Museum to explore how intimate family observances and large public events help create their communities. Includes dialogue over a sampling of food.

APRIL 5, 11:30am or 3:30pm at the Indo-American Center

\$15, \$10 members • Pre-register at 312.665.7474.

TWO OF US: FRUIT SALAD Family Workshop

You and your little one will sing songs and create art projects all while learning about how fruits and vegetables grow.

For families with children ages 3–5.

MONDAYS, APRIL 7–28, 10am • \$32, \$23 members

Price is per 4-week session and includes one chaperone per child. Pre-registration required.

ARTISTS AT THE FIELD* Demonstration

Bring your pencils and your brushes and get tips from professional artists throughout the Museum as they study, weave, draw, paint and sculpt.

APRIL 12, 11am–2pm

FOSSIL HUNT AT MAZON CREEK Family Field Trip

Come with us to the Mazon Creek site, and discover what Illinois was like more than 300 million years ago! Plan on a one-quarter mile walk to fossil locations. For families with children ages 8–17.

APRIL 19, 8am–3pm • \$40, \$28 members

Pre-registration required.

FAMILY FIELD DAY!* Family Program

Hear a story, sign up for a family workshop (listed below), take part in fun and free art activities, and meet a real scientist!

APRIL 19, 10am–2pm

WHODUNNIT—SOLVING A HISTORY MYSTERY:

WHERE'S MAHU? Family Workshop

Help us solve the mystery of Mahu's family portrait by examining ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. These symbols list 6 names, yet there are only 5 people in the portrait! For families with children ages 5–10.

APRIL 19, 10am • \$5, \$3 members

Pre-registration required.

ARTIST AND AUTHORS PRESENT VERA B. WILLIAMS*

Family Program

Join us for a storytelling performance featuring the book *More, More, More Said the Baby*.

APRIL 19, 1:30pm

SCIENTIST AT THE FIELD* Demonstration Understanding DNA

Meet a Field Museum scientist and see rarely displayed specimens from our collections.

MAY 3 & MAY 17, 11am-2pm

TWO OF US: WONDERFUL WORMS Family Workshop

You and your little one will hear stories and make art projects all while exploring the world beneath our feet. For families with children ages 3-5.

MONDAYS, MAY 5-26, 10am • \$32, \$23 members

Price is per 4-week session and includes one chaperone per child. Pre-registration required.

USDA SCIENTIST AT THE FIELD Demonstration

Visit Underground Adventure and get a chance to see and feel different types of soil!

MAY 8, 11am-2pm

Free with admission to *Underground Adventure*

ARTISTS AT THE FIELD* Demonstration

Bring your pencils and your brushes and get tips from professional artists throughout the Museum as they study, weave, draw, paint and sculpt.

MAY 10, 11am-2pm

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS Adult Workshop

Roots & Renewal

Join the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and the Swahili Institute of Chicago to explore how harvest festivals create, celebrate and renew community by drawing upon the past to move into the future. Discuss your own heritage of the harvest over a sampling of foods.

MAY 10, 11:30am at the Cambodian American Heritage Museum
\$15, \$10 members • Pre-register at 312.665.7474.

FAMILY FIELD DAY!* Family Program

Hear a story, sign up for a family workshop (listed below), take part in fun and free art activities, and meet a real scientist!

MAY 17, 10am-2pm

THE SECRETS OF COLLECTIONS: TOY BOX

Family Workshop

Do you have a favorite game or toy? Bring it to the Museum and we'll compare it to the games and toys of other children throughout time and around the world. For families with children ages 3-5.

MAY 17, 10am • \$5, \$3 members

Pre-registration required.

Cultural Connections has received generous support from Chicago Park District, Illinois Humanities Council, Institute of Museum and Library Services, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Polk Bros. Foundation, and Richard H. Driehaus Foundation

CROWN FAMILY PLAYLAB Ongoing!

Little explorers have their own place in a big museum!

The Crown Family PlayLab is generously sponsored by the Crown family.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

THROUGH JULY 6

Discover George Washington Carver, scientist and humanitarian, whose groundbreaking work creating products from plants continues to influence scientists-and our own lives-today.

This exhibition was created by The Field Museum in collaboration with Tuskegee University and the National Park Service.

Lead Sponsor: Motorola Foundation

Major Sponsor: Sara Lee Foundation

CELEBRATING WOMEN

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 9

Vivid color photographs from around the world portray festivals that celebrate women as fighters for freedom, bearers of light, or simply young and carefree girls.

This exhibition was created and organized by Paola Gianturco.

MYTHIC CREATURES: DRAGONS, UNICORNS AND MERMAIDS

MARCH 19 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1

Trace the cultural and natural history roots of some of the world's most enduring mythological beasts of land, sea, and air, such as dragons, griffins, mermaids, sea serpents, and unicorns.

This exhibition is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York, in collaboration with The Field Museum, Chicago; Canadian Museum of Civilization, Gatineau-Ottawa; Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney; and Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Atlanta

Lead Sponsor: MetLife Foundation

DANIEL F. AND ADA L. RICE DNA DISCOVERY CENTER New!

OPENS MAY 2, PERMANENT EXHIBITION

Discover what DNA is, how it works and what it can tell us about ourselves and other living things.

This exhibition is generously supported by the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation.

We gratefully acknowledge The Pritzker Foundation's generous support of the Pritzker Laboratory for Molecular Systematics and Evolution. We express our appreciation to Misty and Lewis Gruber for establishing an endowment in support of research in the Pritzker Laboratory.

NATURE UNLEASHED: INSIDE NATURAL DISASTERS

MAY 23 THROUGH JANUARY 4, 2009

Earthquakes. Tornadoes. Hurricanes. Volcanic eruptions. Tsunamis. Explore these immense forces of geology and weather that have shaped our planet and our world.

This exhibition is organized by The Field Museum.

National Tour Sponsor: Allstate

New Book Explores How Humble Creatures Gave Us the Basis for Humanity

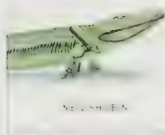
By Maureen King, Guest Editor

In 2006, a discovery by paleontologist and Field Museum Provost Neil Shubin, PhD, made headlines around the world. On expedition in the Arctic, Dr. Shubin and his colleagues unearthed a 375-million-year-old fossil fish, later named *Tiktaalik roseae*, whose fins contained the same structure found today in the limbs of all walking animals! *Tiktaalik* represented one of the earliest ancestors of creatures that left the sea to live on land.



Dr. Shubin with *Tiktaalik* fossil and a fleshed-out model of the ancient fish.

YOUR INNER FISH



Dr. Shubin has now written a book, *Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body*, that illuminates the subject of evolution with a compelling look at how the human body evolved into its present form. Published by Pantheon in January and already named a Book-of-the-Month-Club pick, *Your Inner Fish* also has been translated into nine languages for international publication this spring.

"I can imagine few things more beautiful or intellectually profound than finding the basis for our humanity nestled inside some of the most humble creatures that ever lived," Dr. Shubin says.

"Make the relevant comparisons," he continues, "and we find that our hands resemble fossil fish fins, our heads are organized like jawless fish, and major parts of our genomes look and function like those of worms and bacteria. We unlock our history as we compare ourselves to animals living and dead, and as we discover new fossils from around the world. With all of this history in our bodies, we are most definitely not designed 'intelligently.' Our chances of developing certain cancers, hernias, bad backs, injured knees, and even hiccups are the result of the history that we share with fish, worms, and clams."

Dr. Shubin is associate dean of Organismal and Evolutionary Biology, and the Robert R. Bensley Professor at the University of Chicago. It was his work as a professor teaching anatomy coupled with the discovery of *Tiktaalik* that led him to explore the unity of all organisms since the beginning of life. **ITF**

'Our chances of developing certain cancers, hernias, bad backs, injured knees, and even hiccups are the result of the history that we share with fish, worms, and clams.'

A New Rallying Cry: "Leave No Child Inside!"

By Laurel M. Ross, Urban Conservation Director, Environmental and Conservation Programs

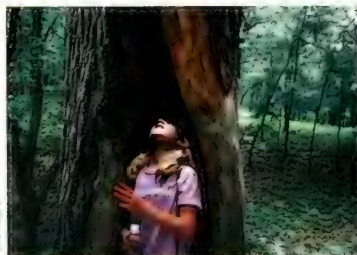
"Leave No Child Inside!" is the new rallying cry in a growing national movement focused on children's health and well-being. A growing body of research shows that in the past 30 years, families in the United States have substantially changed their child rearing practices and have altered their attitudes toward nature and the outdoors.



At no other time in our history have so many children been so separated from direct experiences in nature. It is increasingly difficult for children to enjoy the outdoors when they are routinely overscheduled and plugged in to electronic media. The problem is compounded with the decline in budgets for parks and public transportation. Even recess and walking to school are fast becoming things of the past.

The growing gap between children and nature in urban, suburban, and even rural communities has far-reaching results. A groundbreaking book, *The Last Child in the Woods*, by journalist Richard Louv, presents a compelling array of studies showing that just about every good thing we want for our children—healthy bodies, good performance in school, and a sense of well-being—is negatively affected by this trend. As intimacy with nature is fading from our experience, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), depression, and obesity in children are on the rise. Louv coined the term "nature deficit disorder" to describe this phenomenon.

The good news? The reaction from the public has been phenomenal. Grassroots groups are forming throughout the country. Many private and public programs are now aimed at reconnecting children and nature.



Left, top: Students explore Beaubien Woods as they participate in The Field Museum's Calumet Environmental Education Program (CEEP).

Left, bottom: A Mighty Acorns student discovers a hollow tree while on a field trip.

*Children playing on a
"Cool Globe" on the Museum
Campus last summer.*

The Chicago region has emerged as a leader in this movement:

The Children and Nature Network now has a Chicago steering committee focused on furthering the goals of this national network, which was created to encourage and support the people and organizations working to reconnect children with nature.

In 2007, **Chicago Wilderness**, a conservation consortium with 225 member organizations, (with leadership from The Field Museum) launched "Leave No Child Inside," a public awareness campaign.

Field Museum President John McCarter serves on the **National Forum for Children and Nature** which has pledged to raise \$20 million to support creative initiatives.

Much more is on the horizon. More than 100 educators, planners, and scientists from The Field Museum and other Chicago Wilderness member organizations spent a full day at the South Shore Cultural Center last November creating a comprehensive Chicago region action plan to implement "Leave No Child Inside." This action plan will be the foundation of a multi-year campaign with the ambitious goal of finding ways to reconnect all children in the Chicago-region to nature.

In the meantime, families, schools, civic organizations, and communities can push change from the ground up, through simple yet significant shifts in daily life. The Children and Nature Network advises: "Take your kids outside and skim stones, count butterflies, or go fishing. Get outside with them and look, listen, touch, and smell! Let your kids take the lead—with their natural curiosity, they will quickly find something for the family to explore. Enjoying the outdoors with your children is fun, healthy and a great way to spend quality time with your family. One of the greatest gifts you can give a child is to share your love of nature." **ITF**

The Mighty Acorns program at The Field Museum is sponsored by BP and the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation



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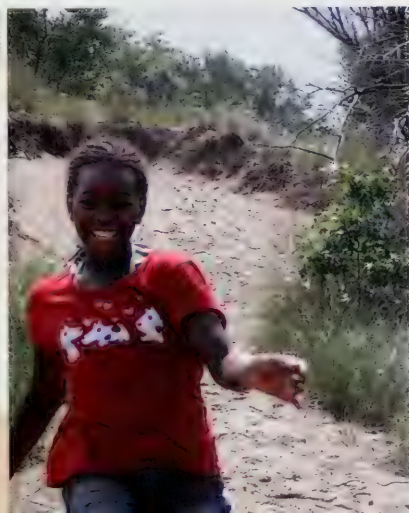
Interested in finding ways to bring your own family closer to nature? Check out these websites for ideas and information and to learn more about Field Museum's programs for children:

www.fieldmuseum.org/ceep

www.kidsoutside.info

www.cnaturenet.org

www.thefuturesedge.com



A young girl at Mighty Acorns Summer Camp. Through CEEP, Mighty Acorns teaches third through seventh graders the importance of preservation and restoration through stewardship activities such as planting native seeds.

George Washington Carver

The Life, the Science, and the Enduring Legacy

By Deanna Hope, Writer

"I wanted to know the name of every stone and flower and insect and bird and beast.

I wanted to know where it got its color, where it got its life." — George Washington Carver



Dr. Carver in his laboratory.

American agriculturalist George Washington Carver was a man of unquenchable curiosity and great foresight whose ideas resonate in our lives today. In a new exhibition, *George Washington Carver* (through July 6), The Field Museum provides a complex and intimate portrait of a scientist, humanitarian and innovator.

Born into slavery in 1864, Carver realized, while still a child, that education was the only way he could find answers to his endless list of questions. At age 12, Carver left home on a journey that would eventually take him from Simpson College in Iowa, where he was the only black student, to Iowa State University, and finally to a research and teaching position at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Carver was "driven by the needs he saw around him," says Michael Dillon, PhD, chair of the Department of Botany at The Field Museum. On his way to Alabama, Carver saw cotton farmers struggling to make ends meet on the exhausted Southern soil. Among Carver's solutions was crop rotation—a technique long-established in other cultures but not practiced in the South—a technique that Carver knew would replenish the soil.

To Carver, putting his discoveries to practical use was vital. Visitors will be able to read some of his most popular "bulletins," simple guides on everything from crop rotation to canning to composting, always aimed at making farm families self-sufficient. A highlight of the exhibition is

'Born into slavery in 1864, George Washington Carver realized, while still a child, that education was the only way he could find answers to his endless list of questions.'

a life-sized reproduction of the Jesup Wagon, a "movable school" that Carver constructed to take the results of his experiments to farms and homes. The wagon also features reproductions of plants he may have used in demonstrations.

Carver is perhaps best known for developing products derived from plants, finding and discovering literally hundreds of new uses for them, including goods made from sweet potatoes, soy beans, and peanuts. His legacy lives on in our world today, where research on plant-based fuels, medicines and other products is rooted in the work to which he dedicated his life. Letters and testimonies from people whose lives Carver influenced praise his accomplishments and his great goal: to educate others, make them self-sufficient, and give them "the gift of self-worth." **ITF**

This exhibition was created by The Field Museum in collaboration with Tuskegee University and the National Park Service.

Lead Sponsor: Motorola Foundation

Major Sponsor: Sara Lee Foundation



Experience the Thrill of Discovery! Join Us for Members' Nights, March 26 and 27

By Emily Waldren, Public Relations Coordinator

Whether you've been a Field Museum member for one month or 40 years, you're sure to discover something new and exciting: This year, we celebrate our 57th annual Members' Nights, March 26 and 27 from 5–10pm.

A behind-the-scenes party where members meet the staff, hear about their current projects, and view usually off-limits areas, the event is enjoyed by members and staff alike. Highlights include special programs and entertainment in Stanley Field Hall and around the Museum, tours of the state-of-the-art Collections Resource Center, and the chance to view specimens up close. A perennial favorite is the dermestid beetle room, where a peek through the glass tanks shows flesh-eating beetles cleaning animal carcasses down to white bones.

Margaret Reneker, a Museum member since 1998, says, "We really enjoy Members' Night. I love talking with the scientists and hearing their enthusiasm for their subjects."

Scientists also enjoy sharing their passion for discovery with Museum members. Bill Stanley, Negaunee Collections Manager of Mammals, explains, "Members' Nights are the coolest thing the Museum does. It essentially is the one chance for the public to see the Museum from the inside out."

During Members Nights' you can usually find Stanley dissecting an animal and explaining its anatomy in the Museum's zoology preparation laboratory. Fourth-grader Declan Jensen attended his first Members' Night in 2007, and was particularly fascinated by the skinning of a lion carcass: "Those animals looked so slimy and gross

without skin on—I'd never seen anything like that before. They used cool tools to do it and we could get up real close and see everything and ask questions, too."



Behind-the-scenes isn't the only place visitors can explore. This year, two new exhibitions, offering something for all age levels and interests, will be open during Members' Nights. *George Washington Carver* explores the life and work of one of our country's most important scientists (read more on page 12) and *Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns & Mermaids* examines the thrilling, enduring power of legendary creatures (see page 4).

There's something for everyone during Members' Nights, whether it's holding an ancient dinosaur fossil in your hand, exploring science labs with your family, or discovering new exhibitions.

Perhaps John Hockman, Museum member since 1978, expresses it best when he says, "I enjoy attending and wouldn't change anything about it!" **ITF**

Members' Nights are sponsored by Sears Holdings Corporation.

'Members' Nights are the coolest thing the Museum does.'

PLEASE NOTE: ON MARCH 26 & 27, THE MUSEUM WILL CLOSE AT 3PM AND OPEN FOR MEMBERS' NIGHTS AT 5PM.

FIELD MUSEUM MEMBERS ARE ENTITLED TO FREE TICKETS FOR THEMSELVES, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY. TO ATTEND MEMBERS' NIGHTS 2008, RSVP BY VISITING WWW.FIELDMUSEUM.ORG/MEMBERSNIGHT OR CALL 312.665.7705.

The Audubon Ottoman—Furniture for the Birds

By Michael David Godow, Library Director and Special Collections Manager and Steven Strohmeier, Senior Foundation Giving Manager

One of the Museum's most important artifacts is also one of its most unusual and charming: first-edition copy of John James Audubon's seminal work *The Birds of America* that is actually housed within an upholstered ottoman.



JOHN WEINSTEIN/GR0062.070



JOHN WEINSTEIN/GR0062.070

In 1969, the Museum received as a gift one of only 134 existing copies of John James Audubon's masterpiece *The Birds of America*, first edition, double elephant folio, published during the period of 1827–1838. Most copies of this monumental work consist of 435 hand-engraved and colored plates capturing life-size images of known species of American birds. However, The Field Museum's copy of the work is believed to be one of three copies personally requested by Audubon for himself and his two closest friends. Audubon made a number of changes to these three copies, such as binding them by species rather than plate number. He also included 13 additional plates not found in other folios, which were added to correct mistakes or include discoveries that were made after the original plates were printed. Of these three copies, only Audubon's personal edition and the Museum's are still known to exist.

However, what is most unusual about the Museum's copy is that it is believed to be the only Audubon folio housed in an upholstered ottoman. The Audubon Ottoman is a completely original design that not only safely stores the folio, but also provides individual display tables for the four *Birds of America* volumes. The Audubon Ottoman's unique design safely kept the folio away from dust and light for more than 150 years, ensuring the long-lasting beauty and rich coloring of the Museum's copy.

'...The Field Museum's copy of *The Birds of America* is believed to be one of three copies personally requested by Audubon for himself and his two closest friends.'



JOHN WEINSTEIN/GR0062.070

Tatsumi Brown

Last summer, with the patronage of Paula B. Ramos, Christopher Ramos, and Paul Jellison, the Museum undertook a major cosmetic conservation of the Audubon Ottoman. Over the course of two months, conservator Tatsumi Brown logged 346 hours carefully cleaning the ottoman and designing a new, historically correct cover of brocaded silk, returning this one-of-a-kind piece to its original beauty. **ITF**

THE AUDUBON OTTOMAN WILL BE ON DISPLAY IN THE LIBRARY READING ROOM DURING THE MUSEUM'S ANNUAL MEMBERS' NIGHTS, MARCH 26 AND 27. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE MUSEUM LIBRARY'S COLLECTIONS, PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://WEBSTAGE/RESEARCH_COLLECTIONS/LIBRARY](http://webstage/research_collections/library).

Corporate Corner

United Airlines Makes Discoveries Possible

The Field Museum thanks United Airlines for its generous, long-term support. We recognize United as our official airline, and its travel support enables Museum curators, scientists, and other staff travel worldwide to promote our mission.

Recently, United helped make possible the discovery of important dinosaur fossils in China. Museum paleontologist Peter Makovicky, PhD, and his team utilized the United ticketing account to undertake two field expeditions to China. Dr. Makovicky's team and colleagues from Peking University excavated dinosaurs and other fossils in eastern China. They found a dozen skeletons of the small dinosaur *Psittacosaurus*, a complete fossil turtle, a fossil lizard, and a nest of dinosaur eggs. That trip was followed by another in which Dr. Makovicky joined a team of Chinese and American colleagues in the southern Gobi desert. In that remote area, the team collected 28 dinosaur fossils in just 12 days, including some that represent species new to science.

"The United tickets were an invaluable asset," said Dr. Makovicky, "allowing us to stretch funding for one field trip into two—both of which were unusually productive and successful."



Dr. Peter Makovicky digs for fossils in China.



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Special Founders' Council and Annual Fund Events

Thank you to all of our Founders' Council and Annual Fund donors for their generous support in 2007. Your contributions helped make 2007 a great success for The Field Museum and we are looking forward to an exciting 2008!

One of the benefits of being a Founders' Council donor (starting at \$2,500) is access to exclusive previews of new exhibitions. The Founders' Council preview of the upcoming exhibition *Nature Unleashed: Inside Natural Disasters* will take place on Wednesday, May 21. For more information on this event or on becoming a member of The Founders' Council, please contact Michelle Harryman at 312.665.7773.

The Annual Fund preview event for *Nature Unleashed* will take place on Thursday, May 22. In addition, Field Naturalists and Field Explorers donors have scheduled two behind-the-scenes events this spring: Tuesday, March 25 and Wednesday, April 23. Donors may choose one of four behind-the-scenes programs each year. For more information on these programs or on becoming a member of The Annual Fund, please email annualfund@fieldmuseum.org or call 312.665.7777.

For more information about *Nature Unleashed: Inside Natural Disasters*, visit www.fieldmuseum.org or watch for the next issue of *In the Field*.

Above: Tornado seen during a thunderstorm offers spectacular evidence of nature's power.

More Member Benefits in 2008!

In January, The Field Museum Membership Department unveiled new benefits, and members at every level are reaping the rewards.

Student Membership Enjoy the Museum with a friend! A student membership now includes free general admission for yourself and one guest. In addition, you'll get three free or discounted tickets per special exhibition and free coat check for up to two items.

Senior and Individual Membership These memberships are now a better value with three (instead of two) free or discounted tickets per special exhibition. Use the extra ticket when you come with a guest, or treat yourself to a second visit to a favorite special exhibition. And, you'll get free coat check for up to two items.

National Affiliate Membership Attention out-of-town visitors! The Museum has reinstated the National Affiliate Membership, which includes all the benefits of an Individual Membership at a reduced price for persons living 100 miles or more from The Field Museum.

Family Membership Free coat check for up to five items helps to make your day at the Museum even better. Also, we've added one more free or discounted special exhibition ticket, for a total of five tickets per exhibition. With special exhibitions such as *Mythic Creatures* and *Nature Unleashed*, 2008 is a great year to have extra tickets!

Family Plus Membership The Museum is excited to unveil Family Plus, our newest and most economical membership level—perfect for households with children in college or families who want to visit the Museum with other adult guests. Benefits include free general admission for two adults and one guest, free general admission for children or grandchildren under 18 (in the member household), six free or discounted tickets to all special exhibitions, and free coat check for up to six items.

For more information, call the Membership Hotline at **312.665.7700**, go to **www.fieldmuseum.org**, or stop by the **Membership Desk** when you visit.

PLEASE NOTE: Field Museum memberships may not be transferred or shared. Benefits may only be used by persons indicated in the membership description.



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Upcoming Contemporary Art Exhibition

On April 18, The Field Museum will present *Envisioning Change*, an international contemporary art exhibition that focuses on the importance of protecting the environment. Visit **www.fieldmuseum.org** for more information.

This exhibition is presented in partnership by Natural World Museum and the United Nations Environment Programme. Presented by: Autodesk. Chicago Sponsor: The Gary C. Comer Family.

4.18

Shop for Mythic Creatures

Enter the world of *Mythic Creatures* by shopping in the exhibition's exit store. Find an exciting array of delightful gifts, books, toys, and treasures for the whole family. Dragons both Eastern and Western-inspired will abound as well as mermaids, known as sedans to the Inuit people of the Arctic. You will also discover

unicorns, griffins, and other mythological creatures like our dragon-headed bronze turtle from China. And remember you can shop online 24 hours a day at **www.fieldmuseum.org**.

Bronze dragon-headed turtle, a symbol of prosperity and protection.



www.fieldmuseum.org

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WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT IN THE FIELD? For questions about the magazine, call 312.665.7103, email noshea@fmnh.org or write Nancy O'Shea, Editor. For general membership inquiries, including address changes, call 866.312.2781.